

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 26, 2019

President Donald J. Trump
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

As veterans of our armed forces or federal agencies with a national security focus, we share your belief that Iran is a malignant state actor. Given our experience in national security affairs, we also understand that clearly-defined goals are integral to achieving success in U.S. foreign policy. With that in mind, we are concerned that various members of your Administration have articulated different goals when it comes to Iran. For instance, National Security Advisor John Bolton has made statements in the past about regime change, while Secretary of State Pompeo has set forth 12 demands for Iran, the majority of which are unrelated to nonproliferation. To add to the discordance, you have stated a desire simply for a stronger nuclear deal.

Congress and the American people have the right to know what your Administration's goals—and the strategy for achieving those goals—actually are for Iran. Therefore, we respectfully request your answers to the following basic questions:

1. What is the Administration's desired end state for Iran?
2. How do current U.S. actions help achieve the desired end state?
3. Is the lifting of Iran sanctions contingent on Iran's agreement to a stronger nuclear deal or the 12 conditions outlined by Secretary Pompeo?
4. Which U.S. allies currently support U.S. actions towards Iran?
5. Does your Administration believe the 2001 Authorization for the Use of Military Force—which is related to the 9/11 terrorist attacks—authorizes the use of force against Iran? If so, please explain how it applies.
6. If the U.S. were to use military force against Iran, how does the Administration propose to contain escalation?

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Abigail Spanberger
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Gilbert R. Cisneros
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Max Rose
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Bobby L. Rush
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Peter A. DeFazio
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Mike Thompson
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Jose E. Serrano
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Elissa Slotkin
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Seth Moulton
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Andy Kim
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Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress